

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 952

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, U.K. (N.I.) EEC

SUBJECT: SURPRISE AND RELIEF AT ULSTER "YES" TO EEC

REF: (A) LONDON 8666 (B) BELFAST 189 (NOTAL)

1. HEADLINE ON MILITANTLY LOYALIST NEWS LETTER JUNE 7

READ: QUOTE SHOCK "YES" IN PROVINCE UNQUOTE.

SUBHEAD WAS "ANTI-EEC BRIGADE DEFEATED". THESE

HEADLINES SUM UP RESULT OF AND ONE PROBABLE REASON FOR

NORTHERN IRELAND VOTING ALONG WITH REST OF UNITED KINGDOM

TO REMAIN IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. ONLY 48 PERCENT

OF NORTHERN IRELAND VOTERS TURNED OUT IN ONE OF LOWEST

POLLS IN U.K. 259,251 OR 52 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING SAID

"YES" TO EUROPE AGAINST 237,911 OR 47.9 PERCENT "NO'S"

A MAJORITY OF 21,340. POSITIVE VOTE ULSTER CAME AS

SURPRISE TO MOST OBSERVERS HERE. THERE PROBABLY SOME

TRUTH IN THEORY THAT NARROW MARGIN WAS COMBINATION APATHY,

INTUITIVE REACTION TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS RECOMMENDING

WITHDRAWAL AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FUTURE SHOULD NORTHERN

IRELAND WITHDRAW FURTHER FROM THE WORLD. IN THIS

CONNECTION EVE-OF-POLL PREDICTIONS THAT U.K. VOTE

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WOULD BE OVERWHELMINGLY FOR COMMUNITY PROBABLY ENCOURAGED

SOME NORTHERN IRELAND VOTERS TO GO TO POLLS.

2. THERE SPECULATION THAT FUTURE WILL BRING OPENING OF EEC INFORMATION OFFICE IN BELFAST AND GROWING DEMAND FOR MORE DIRECT REPRESENTATION NORTHERN IRELAND IN BRUSSELS. LOCAL RESULTS REFERENDUM COULD ALSO MEAN PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION CROSS-BORDER STUDIES OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. ULSTER FARMERS UNION WHICH SUPPORTED MEMBERSHIP HAS CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

3. NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY CONVENTION MEMBER DAVID BLEAKLEY HAS SUGGESTED "YES" VOTE WILL GREATLY STRENGTHEN BRITISH COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND, IMPROVE NORTH/SOUTH COOPERATION, WIN FRIENDS ON INTERNATIONAL SCALE AND INVOLVE EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN SEARCH FOR AN AGREED SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS NORTHERN IRELAND. TO DATE, OF LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES, ONLY REVEREND IAN PAISLEY AND ENOCH POWELL HAVE PUBLICLY DEPLORED RESULT.

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